

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-12 (canceled).

Claim 13 (previously presented): A method for controlling house dust mites and bedmites, comprising the step of:

- (i) incorporating into a manmade fibre during the course of its manufacture of said manmade fibre a chemical compound which has anti-fungal activity against fungi of at least one of the groups aspergillus glaucus and aspergillus restrictus; and
- (ii) subsequently using said manmade fibre containing said incorporated chemical compound to manufacture a product in which at least one of house dust mites and bed mites typically proliferate selected from bedding, upholstered articles and floor coverings, whereby, in use, said product has antifungal activity against fungi of at least one of the groups aspergillus glaucus and aspergillus restrictus, which antifungal activity endures through launderings of the product.

Claim 14-15 (canceled).

Claim 16 (previously presented): A method according to claim 13, wherein said manmade fibre is an acrylic fibre.

Claim 17 (previously presented): A method according to claim 13, wherein said fibre is used in the manufacture of a textile article.

Claim 18 (previously presented): A method according to claim 17, wherein said textile article is a bedding fabric.

Claim 19 (canceled).

Claim 20 (previously presented): A method according to claim 16, wherein said acrylic fibre is a wet spun acrylic fibre.

Claims 21-30 (canceled).

Claim 31 (previously presented): A method according to claim 13, wherein said incorporating step is accomplished by incorporating said chemical compound into a material from which said manmade fibre is manufactured.

Claim 32 (previously presented): A method according to claim 31, wherein said material from which said manmade fibre is manufactured is a spinning dope.

Claim 33 (canceled).

Claim 34 (previously presented): A method according to claim 13, wherein said manmade fibre is manufactured such that said manmade fibre has a fissured structure which

assists diffusion of said chemical compound from within said manmade fibre to a surface of said manmade fibre upon depletion of said compound therefrom to provide said product with a long-lasting antifungal effect that endures through launderings of said product.

Claim 35 (previously presented): A method for controlling house dust mites and bedmites, comprising the steps of:

- (i) incorporating an antifungal compound into a spinning dope and thereafter manufacturing a manmade fibre from said spinning dope, said antifungal compound having anti-fungal activity against fungi of at least one of the groups *aspergillus glaucus* and *aspergillus restrictus*; and
- (ii) subsequently using said manmade fibre containing said incorporated chemical compound to manufacture a product in which at least one of house dust mites and bed mites typically proliferate selected from bedding, upholstered articles and floor coverings, whereby, in use, said product has antifungal activity against fungi of at least one of the groups *aspergillus glaucus* and *aspergillus restrictus*, which antifungal activity endures through launderings of the product.

Claim 36 (previously presented): A method according to claim 35, wherein said manmade fibre is manufactured such that said manmade fibre has a fissured structure which assists diffusion of said chemical compound from within said manmade fibre to a surface of said manmade fibre upon depletion of said compound therefrom to provide said product with a long-lasting antifungal effect that endures through launderings of said product.

Claim 37 (previously presented): A method for controlling house dust mites and bedmites, comprising the steps of:

incorporating a fungicidal compound into a material from which a manmade fibre is manufactured and manufacturing a manmade fibre from said material such that said fibre has a fissured structure and said fungicidal compound is located within said fissured structure, said compound having anti-fungal activity against fungi of at least one of the groups aspergillus glaucus and aspergillus restrictus; and

subsequently using said fibre containing said incorporated compound to manufacture an article selected from bedding, upholstered articles and floor coverings, said fissured structure of said manmade fibre permitting diffusion of said compound to a surface of said manmade fibre upon depletion of said compound therefrom to provide said article with a long-lasting antifungal effect that endures through launderings,

whereby, in use, said article has antifungal activity against fungi of at least one of the groups aspergillus glaucus and aspergillus restrictus and is thereby resistant to the proliferation of house dust mites and bedmites.

Claim 38 (currently amended): A method according to claim ~~38~~ 37, wherein said manmade fibre is an acrylic fibre.

Claim 39 (previously presented). A method according to claim 38, wherein said acrylic fiber is a wet spun acrylic fibre.

Claim 40 (previously presented): A method according to claim 37, wherein said article is an article of bedding.

Claim 41 (previously presented): A method according to claim 37, wherein said article is an upholstered article.

Claim 42 (previously presented): A method according to claim 37, wherein said fibre is used as a filling material for the article.

Claim 43 (previously presented): A method according to claim 37, wherein said article is a floor covering.

Claim 44 (previously presented): A method according to claim 37, wherein said compound is selected from a group consisting of tolnaftate, bifonazole, clotrimazole, miconazole, dichlorophene, hexachlorophene and triclosan.

Claim 45 (previously presented): A method according to claim 44, wherein an amount of said compound incorporated into said fibre is within the range of 0.01 to 2 percent by weight of the fibre.

Claim 46 (new): A method according to claim 36, further comprising the step of preventing, with said chemical compound, dead skin fragments on an article of bedding from being converted into a suitable house dust mite and bed mite food source.